

S E C R E T

NICARAGUAN PUBLIC OPINION POLL PUBLISHED IN "LA PRENSA"

- The poll was conducted by the Center for Religious Studies (CER), a non-leftist Catholic research organization, from 12 July - 30 August 1981.

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- The survey was conducted in seven cities, including Managua, and thus covered the urban sector (about 55% of the population). In the opinion of the Agency's polling expert, who analyzed the survey, the general conclusions of the poll are valid for the urban sector.
- The survey consisted of direct interviews. Most questions concerned attitudes toward the Church and Church/FSLN relationships, but also elicited responses of political significance.
- Survey results show that:
 - General urban support for the FSLN is probably between 35-55%.
 - The FSLN's hardline totalitarian constituency is between 15-25%.
 - Cutting issues that can diminish existing support for the FSLN are:
 - Elections: 70% want them; 22% do not.
 - Freedom of expression: 77% want freedom for independent media like La Prensa and Radio Corporacion; 13% do not.
 - Freedom for the Church and a Christian non-Marxist education for their children: 71% want a Christian education; 25% a Marxist, or Marxist Christian mixture..
 - Castro influence: only 22% strongly endorses Castro; 47% did not care for him

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